



BERNARD E. POWERS JR.

earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American history at Northwestern University and in 2018 retired as professor emeritus of history at the College of Charleston. Currently Powers is the founding director of the College of Charleston's Center for the Study of Slavery in Charleston. He has presented papers at conferences and reviewed books and manuscripts for journals and presses. His work appears in book chapters and in scholarly and popular periodicals. He edited the 1999 ASALH Black History Month Kit entitled "The Legacy of African American Leadership for the Present and the Future." His article "Community Evolution and Race Relations in Reconstruction

Charleston, S.C." was included in the Century of Excellence Centennial Volume 1900-2000 of The South Carolina Historical Magazine (July,2000). A recent book chapter is "Churches as Places of History: The Case of Nineteenth Century Charleston, South Carolina," in Interpreting African American History and Culture at Museums and Historic Sites (2015). Powers is the author of Black Charlestonians: A Social History 1822-1885, (1994) a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Book for 1995. He was an associate editor of the Encyclopedia of South Carolina (2006). Most recently he co-authored We Are Charleston: Tragedy and Triumph at Mother Emanuel(2016). His current research examines African Methodism in South Carolina. Bernard Powers has appeared in documentary films, including recently the PBS production, "African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" and "Emanuel: the Untold Story of the Victims and Survivors of the Charleston Church Shooting." Powers has been extensively involved in public history and has served as a consultant for historic sites. He is the founding past president of the Charleston Branch of ASALH. He was also president of the South Carolina Historical Association and of the Advisory Board of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture. He is an emeritus trustee of the Historic Charleston Foundation and a former member of the City of Charleston Tourism Commission. Presently, Powers is interim president of the International African American Museum (IAAM) scheduled to open in 2021 in Charleston.